# The 40-minute Practice Hour National Flute Association, 2012

#### 1. More Effective Practice

- Increase awareness
- Reduce tension and stress on body
- Work away from instrument
- · Rest and recover

#### 2. Embodied Practicing

Engaging your whole self:

Body

Mind

**Emotions** 

Multi-sensory awareness

All your musical training

#### 3. Develops Artistry

You are an artist!

# 4. Warm-ups

- · Whole-body
- Using full range of motion in arms
- Feel connection to floor support for whole body
- · Get blood pumping
- Repeat for more energy or when you've been over-using the upper body

#### 5. Awareness

- · Multi-sensory awareness engages whole self
  - o On location
  - o In imaginary environment
  - o On stage

# 6. Learning music without flute: Analyze

- Structure
  - o Similarities and differences of each section
  - o Purpose of each section
- Harmony
  - o Harmonic progressions
  - o Emotional language of harmony

#### 7. Analyze, cont

- Emotion
  - Emotional content/meaning of each movement, phrase, section
- Quality of movement
  - o Needed for each emotion
- Historical, cultural, environmental meaning
  - o A holistic approach

# 8. Analyze, cont.

- Breath
- Articulation
- Dynamics

How each enhances the meaning of the

- Phrase
- Section
- Movement
- Piece

# 9. Learning music without flute: Imaginary Practicing

- "Mental" practicing research
- Bb scale top octave
  - o Comfortable speed
  - o Embouchure
  - o Tongue

# Lea Pearson, DMA p. 1

- Fingers
- Breathing
- o Body awareness
- o Slurred, f, p, cresc., staccato, etc.

#### 10. Notice

- When the notes get foggy
- · Which ones tend to blur
- Where in the scale you tense upWhere in your body you tense up

#### 11. Alternating Imaginary with Regular Practicing

- · Go back and forth between the 2
- Are you adding any unnecessary work when you play?
- Gradually speed up
- · Vigilantly observe any tension creeping in
- Go back to imaginary practicing until you can get it at the new tempo in your imagination

#### 12. 4 B's

- B4 bringing up your flute:
  - o B aware (of yourself and the world around you)
  - o B balanced
  - B supported
  - o B breathing

#### 13. Prepping for performance

- Trust your body to do what it knows how to do
- Think primarily about the music the emotion, the meaning. EMBODY it!
- Don't run through passages at tempo
- Instead, slowly go through tricky spots in your multisensory imagination

### 14. Rest and Recovery

- How long before a break?
- · Constructive rest
- Imaginary practicing
- Stretching

# 15. Rest and recovery, cont.

- Inclusive (multisensory) awareness:
  - o Deepens breathing
  - Lowers stress
  - Stimulates the automatic postural reflexes that keep you upright and make you coordinated
  - o Does not "zone you out"

# 16. Summary

- Keep your body moving and flexible with warm-ups, stretching and constructive rest
- Approach music making with your whole self all senses, emotions, and understandings
- Limit time at the instrument (and protect your hearing & body) with imaginary practicing
- Discover exactly what movements you need to create the sounds you want
- Trust what you've practiced

# 17. Thank you!

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Article in Flute Focus: "Navigating Embodied Practicing"
Google it